THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Multi-Sectoral Development Programme for minority concentration districts is a special area development programme of the Government monitored by the Delivery Monitoring Unit for flagship programmes. Under this programme, district plans of 16 states/UTs have been approved and funds released to 14 States/UTs. Four states, *viz.* Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Sikkim have not submitted their district plans. Six district plans have been approved each for Manipur and Bihar. Manipur has furnished Utilization Certificate for entire amount for two districts.

(c) The Multi-sectoral Development Programme was launched in the year 2008-09 and after completion of all necessary formalities of preparation and approvals, the first release was made under this programme in October 2008 only. Approvals are accorded project wise and utilization of funds is reported by the State Government after utiliztion of at least 60% fund released for the project as per guidelines of the programme. The implementation of the scheme of Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) for minority concentration districts (MCDs) is reviewed regularly by the Government with the State Governments/UT administration concerned. Recently a provision has been made to include Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly in the State and District Level Committees for implementation of Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for Welfare of Minorities and Multi-sectoral Development Programme.

New solar policy

1943. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Solar Policy has been announced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the response for Solar Energy has not been good due to its cost factor;

(d) if so, whether it is proposed to subsidise the cost of equipments; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has recently approved Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission to develop solar energy technologies to make solar power competitive to conventional grid power. The Mission aims at creating capacity of 20,000 MW grid solar power and 2,000 MW of off-grid solar power including 20 million solar lights by 2022. In addition, it aims at installation of 20 million square metre solar thermal collector area by 2022. The Mission will be implemented in three phases. Government has approved the target for the first phase of the Mission, to set up 1,100 MW capacity of grid connected solar plants, including 100 MW capacity plants as rooftop and small solar plants. In addition, 200 MW capacity equivalent off-grid solar applications and

7 million square metre solar thermal collector area are also proposed in the first phase of the Mission, till March 2013. Mission will also support research and capacity building activities in solar energy. An amount of Rs. 4,337 crores has been approved for the first phase of the Mission.

(c) to (e) The high initial cost is a barrier in large scale utilization of solar energy equipment. However, utilization of solar energy is gradually increasing. The Ministry is providing capital and interest subsidy on select solar energy equipment to reduce the initial cost to the consumers.

Capacity of solar energy machines

†1944. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of smaller and low-cost solar device that is being made for generating solar energy;

(b) whether any plan is under Government's consideration to fulfil the average requirement of kitchen, lights, hot water from nature for all houses of medium class or it is a matter of research;

(c) whether any integrated new and renewable energy *i.e.* solar energy, bio-gas etc. is under consideration to achieve above target; and

(d) if not, whether it can be considered and if so, whether this is being used somewhere, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) Solar cookers (both box and dish types) can cook food for a small family and solar water heating system can provide hot water for various applications. Small capacity solar photovoltaic (SPV) systems with modules of a few watts are available in the country for meeting lighting and other electrical needs. The costs of such small energy systems vary according to technology and may range from Rs.1500 to Rs.20,000.

(b) to (d) In the country so far over 0.65 million solar cookers, 3.15 million sq. m. of collector area for solar water heating, 1.35 million SPV lighting systems and, 4.12 million biogas plants have been installed. In many houses, biogas is used for cooking, solar photovoltaic systems for lighting and hot water is made available from solar water heaters to meet their energy needs.

Competitive pricing of solar photovoltaic panels

1945. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's proposal for 'Jawahar Solar Mission' includes Research and Development for mass production of user friendly competitive pricing of photovoltaic solar panels; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.